(e)whether it is a fact that increasing power rates and the decision of the private companies to recover the cost of theft from all consumers has imposed a heavy burden on the consumers in Delhi with tendency for little action against power thieves; and

(f) the action Government have taken to address the situation?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) The overall power supply position in the National Capital has improved over the years and the energy and peak shortage reduced from 1.9% and 9.2% respectively at the beginning of the 10th Plan (2002-03) to 1.5% and 3.3% respectively in the year 2005-06. However, there have been instances of increased power shortage during certain periods in peak summer and peak winter when the demand for power increases significantly and/or availability of power gets reduced due to higher forced outage of generating units, reduced hydro availability, etc.

(c) and (d) According to Government of NCT of Delhi Privatization of distribution sector in Delhi has shown very encouraging results. Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) loss reduction in first four years has been around 12% and the distribution companies are committed to reduce losses around 17% during the first five year period. Other parameters have also shown very encouraging trend such as response time to attend faults, etc.

(e) and (f) No Sir, tariff for all category of consumers is determined by Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission Under Section 62 of the Electricity Act, 2003 after examining Annual Revenue Requirement (ARR) petitions submitted by Discoms, Delhi Transco Limited, Indraprastha Power Generation Company Limited and Pragati Power Corporation Limited.

According to Government of NCT of Delhi, Special Courts as per Electricity Act, 2003 have been established to expeditiously dispose the cases related to the theft of electricity.

Private Power Plants in Maharashtra

†660. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that private companies have been permitted to set up power generation plants in Maharashtra;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether these companies have started power generation; and

(c) if not, by when these companies would start power generation in view of shortage of power in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) Under the Electricity Act, 2003, generation has been delicensed and no licence is required for setting up a power generation projects under the Act.

(b) and (c) Government of Maharashtra have informed that 8 companies have evinced interest in setting up power generation projects in Maharashtra. These companies have not yet started power generation. The companies have to tie up essential inputs/clearances including fuel linkages, environmental clearance and financial closure before they take up the projects. Since these companies have yet to tie-up various inputs/ clearances, a realistic time-frame for completion will be known only after financial closure is achieved.

Increase in Power Generation Capacity

661. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to increase the power generating capacity to 400,000 MW by year 2010 from the existing 130,000 MW;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that most of the power projects in the country are running behind schedule; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Out of projects aggregating over 39,300 MW, which are under construction at present, only a few are running behind schedule. A list of such projects is enclosed as Statement.